

SANTA CLARITA WATERSHED RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

*A PUBLIC ENTITY OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA EXERCISING JOINT POWERS OF THE CITY OF SANTA
CLARITA AND THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE
SECTION 6500 ET SEQ.*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: June 5, 2008

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing amending the contract with the Riverside Land Conservancy for pre-acquisition services in the upper Santa Clara Watershed and authorizing acceptance of funds from other public and private entities for said contract.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing amending the contract in an amount not to exceed \$42,000 with the Riverside Land Conservancy for pre-acquisition services in the upper Santa Clara Watershed and authorizing acceptance of funds from other public and private entities for said contract.

Background: The Riverside Land Conservancy has completed the work for its first Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority (SCWRCA) contract in the amount of \$150,000. The RLC has contacted scores of landowners, has solicited many letters of intent, and put 243 acres under contract in Agua Dulce Canyon. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has applied to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for \$900,000 to acquire those 243 acres. In addition, RLC has been instrumental in getting Vulcan Materials to pay for comprehensive new appraisals for a couple dozen parcels in the Agua Dulce Canyon wildlife corridor. In April RLC also produced the final draft of a document, entitled, "East Santa Clarita Land Conservation and Concept Plan and Implementation Strategy." Please see the following link to view a copy of this important document below:

http://mail.dangermond.com:81/Santa_Clarita/scimpstgy_rpt_final.pdf

This document lays out a comprehensive strategy to implement the Angeles Linkage Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The CAPP connects the two portions of the Angeles National Forest on either side of State Route 14.

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RLC has not stopped moving on its CAPP pre-acquisition work. RLC met last week with a representative of the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to solidify an application for additional CAPP funding. The proposed new scope of work is attached. The City of Santa Clarita and Vulcan Materials have each committed \$15,000 towards this new contract. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's source of Conservancy Fund money was overspent and at this time the Conservancy cannot meet its prior commitment of \$12,000 that had been approved by the Conservancy. That approval remains standing if the Conservancy Fund pot is refilled.